

Notice of Public Meeting of a Public Body

Sections 7.6, 7.7.4 and 7.9.1

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING OF THE – Governor's Forest Health Council

Pursuant to A.R.S. Section 38-431, notice is hereby given to the members of the Forest Health Council and to the general public that the **Forest Health Council** will hold a meeting open to the public:

March 13, 2008

9:00 am – 1:00 pm

**County Supervisors Association Building
1905 West Washington Street, Suite 100
Phoenix, AZ**

Meeting Objective: To discuss key forest management issues with Corbin Newman and other Region 3 staff, to review progress and discuss next steps on the Statewide Strategy Scorecard, to discuss progress on wildlife principles and restoration document as well as progress in organizing a council session devoted to pinyon-juniper restoration, and to track overall Statewide Strategy progress through the 2008 work plan.

1) Call to order

T. Schulke, J. Avey, S. Gatewood, N. Dodd, P. Berlioux, G. Buettner, L. Stephenson for M. Herrington, Mark (Flag Fire), Tom Klabunde, J. Metzger, R. Davis, R. Wilson, K. Rowdabaugh, L. Faeth, E. Aumack, M. Pitts, Cheryl Lombard from the TNC, Sandy Bahr for R. Smith, Corbin Newman, Gilbert Zepeda, Gene Blankenbaker, K. Morey for Heather Garbarino, Mayor Joe Donaldson, Taylor McKinnon, Magill Weber w/ TNC, Scott Paulson for Mike Neal, Tom (TNC)

2) Approval of the Minutes from February 14, 2008 [Approved](#)

3) Discussion regarding Statewide Strategy Scorecard (Glen Buettner and Ethan Aumack). [The scorecard is listed as one of the top priority items in the Executive Order. **Community Protection within the WUI.** It was requested that the data be broken out by Agency. It was recognized that there is a lack of consistency across CWPP's. Perhaps item #2 needs to be narrowed – such as only high priority areas. #2 should be looking at treatment within the WUI specifically. Focus on WUI. **Restoration outside the WUI.** The question was posed regarding wildlife habitat and meeting the goals of restoration. It was suggested that LANDFIRE data could be utilized. A question regarding environmental impacts \(either positive/negative\) was also posed to the group. After lengthy discussion – the group decided they would revisit this particular grading criterion. **Fire management.** Question regarding definition of “burnable acres”. Corbin stressed the importance of trends – are we getting to where we want to go? It was suggested that the group should monitor the public's tolerance for smoke. Kirk recommended using acres susceptible to wildland fire. Gilbert suggested # of acres approved for wildland use. **Sustainable Economic Development.** The question was posed regarding the definition of sustainable. Are we creating industries that can not only use the wood, but also help pay for treatment. Molly volunteered to work on this particular criterion over the next month. **Public Education.** Concern was expressed regarding item #3/4 due to funding. **Use of Statewide Strategy in ongoing planning.** We will work on these grading criteria next month – with a better understanding of data. Group in general thinks we are headed down the right path.](#)

4) Discussion with Corbin Newman and staff:

[Lori started off the discussion by giving an overall of the two councils and the recent combining of the councils.](#)

- a) [Statewide Strategy update and next steps. Corbin stated that he applauded the Statewide Strategy. Arizona is clearly a leader in forestry resource issues. Steve Gatewood mentioned the scorecard and its relevance to the FS.](#)
- b) [Regional wood supply study. Corbin is committed to landscape scale restoration. Stewardship is a tool. Must be economically sustainable. The treatments need to pay for themselves or be at a very low cost to the federal governments. Corbin has asked Mike Williams to get with the forests to determine what they are capable of doing now. **By mid-May** – should have completed forest assessments and be ready to](#)

make an announcement regarding more stewardship contracts. Kirk brought up the concept of once the wood supply analysis was completed – more stewardship contracts would occur – why is that not happening? Corbin explained that with the administration change – things are taking longer. Lori stated that with the SS and the Wood Supply Analysis that we are well placed to move things along quicker. Corbin stated it is very competitive nationally for \$\$ - he feels we are competitive because of these documents. Harv did a great job of getting \$\$ to Region 3. S. Gatewood asked about the lack of capacity of each forest – and whether the FS can accept private money to do NEPA? Corbin says they have the ability –but is troubled by it because he feels it is the FS's job. Pascal made the statement that there needs to be a separation of power between industry and FS in regards to NEPA. Pascal made the statement that he feels restoration can pay for itself. Todd requested that the FS be as up front as possible about the assumptions that are used during the FS assessment. Jack asked if there is specific task that the FHC could do to help the process. Corbin says that once the assessment has been done – he will bring the information back to the FHC. FS has a regional leadership team mtg. in May – will bring information back to us. Sandy asked how the FS kept the private pocketbook from driving the FS decisions. Corbin explained it was striking a balance between getting a value out of the material and getting the work done.

- c) Stewardship contracting. The group asked about the rumor that the FS was planning on canceling the White Mountain Stewardship Contract. Corbin explained that rumor is not true and they plan to carry it through to the end – but will try to make it more economical. The cancellation clause only needs to be fixed if we are going to have large stewardship contracts with a large \$ amounts. If the exchange for goods and services are closer to equal – the need for a cancellation clause is not as important. They have not been successful in getting the cancellation clause changed. Rob asked if they are going to change the prescriptions in order to make the project more economically feasible. Corbin stated that large stewardship contracts do not lend itself to community based enterprises.
 - d) Forest plan revision process. Arizona took the lead on plan revisions. \$\$ to do the revisions is a huge issue. Little progress has been made due to lawsuits and the rules changing. Corbin has asked the Forest Supervisors to report on where they are in the process. FS had to do an EIS for the planning process. All 5 within the state are at a different point in the process. There is dialogue nationally for sustained funding.
 - e) Budget update and regional implications. Corbin stated that budget will remain the same. Corbin explained the Fire Partition – which is how they will deal with large catastrophic fire. Corbin would like to prioritize his \$\$ to restoration projects.
 - f) Staffing changes at regional office. Corbin stated there is major transformation taking place at the RO. They are trying to determine if there is a more efficient way to work at the RO level, which would free up more money for projects on the ground? Almost half of the directors positions at the RO are vacant.
 - g) Ongoing relationship between U.S. Forest Service and Governor's Forest Health Council. Ethan asked if Corbin would come back in May. Corbin is going to try to make May 8th work.
 - h) Other issues. The Goshawk Guidelines were briefly discussed.
- 5) Update: Wildlife principles and restoration (Steve Rosenstock). On track – should have a draft by April. Josh Avey is the primary contact.
- 6) Update: April pinyon-juniper meeting (Steve Gatewood). Steve has made some progress – won't be ready for the April meeting – perhaps May.
- 7) Review Forest Health Council 2008 work plan and calendar ~ Ethan Aumack. Sent letter out to congressional delegation. Ethan will be presenting at one of the future CSA mtg. Working on getting the final draft of the Land Use Paper – will be circulating to FHC members – asking for agreement. APS is going to be printing more copies of the Statewide Strategy.

Norris asked about a letter to the state legislature – similar to the congressional letter that was sent out?

- 8) Meeting schedule and locations
 - a. April 10, 2007, County Supervisors Association Building
 - i. Pinyon-juniper meeting
- 9) Call to the Public

Dated this March 4, 2008
Governor's Forest Health Council
<http://www.governor.state.az.us/FHC/>

CO-CHAIRS

Ethan Aumack – Grand Canyon Trust

Molly Pitts, Northern Arizona Wood Products Association

Person with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation such as a sign language interpreter, by contacting Diana Arroyo-Ochoa 602-771-1126 or dianao@azcommerce.com. Requests should be made as early as possible to arrange the accommodation.